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Order of the Founders and Patriots of America.

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Order

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Founders and Patriots of America.

New York State Society incorporated 18th March, 1896.

New Jersey Society formed April 28th, 1896.

Connecticut Society formed May 9th, 1896.

Pennsylvania Society formed Jannary 14th, 1897.

Representatives of these three State Societies met in the Governor's Room, at the City Hall, in the City of New York, on the 13th day of May, 1896, and formed a General Court of the Order.

Extracts from the Constitution and By-Laws

SHOWING BRIEFLY THE OBJECTS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ORDER, THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND THE METHOD OF ITS ATTAINMENT.

Preamble.

Recognizing Almighty God as guiding our ancestors to this land, to establish of their descendants, not a Colony, but an independent sovereign Christian nation, destined by Him to occupy a commanding place among the nations of the earth, and to protect and defend liberty in all the Western Hemisphere, and recognizing that the foundations of the nation were laid in the perils and hardships of the first fifty years by our ancestor settlers of that period, rather than in the years that followed, and recognizing that necessary to that end for which our ancestors came was a patriot progeny in the time of the Revolutionary struggle, out of which our country came to be independent and our nation came into being, for ourselves and those who may associate with us, we have formed an Association founded on descent from such ancestry and through their patriot descendants.

Objects and Purposes.

Art. II. Section 1. The object or purpose of the Order is:

1. To bring together and associate congenial men, whose ancestors struggled together for life and liberty, home and happiness, in this land, when it was a new and unknown country, and whose line of descent from them, comes through patriots who sustained the Colonies in the struggle for independence in the Revolutionary War.
2. To teach reverend regard for the names and history, character and perseverance, deeds and heroism, of the founders of this Country and their patriot descendants.
3. To teach that the purpose of the founders could have had no lasting result but for their patriot sons.
4. To inculcate patriotism in the associates and their descendants.
5. To discover, collect and preserve records, documents, manuscripts, monuments and history relating to the genealogy and the history of the first Colonists and their ancestors and their descendants.
6. To commemorate and celebrate events in the History of the Colonies and the Republic.
7. Other historical and patriotic objects and purposes.

Organization.

Art. III. Section 1. The Order consists of :

1. A General Court to be known as the General Court of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America.
2. A society of the Order in each State, District or Territory of the United States, and in such Foreign State or Country in which it may be planted, each of which, prefixed with the name of the political division in which located, is to be known as The——Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America.
3. Such other societies of the Order as may be formed by the division of one society of the Order into two or more societies of the Order as authorized by this Constitution.

Art. VII. Section 7. The General Court shall have and exercise the following powers :

Subd. 4. Upon application of any nine Associates of the Order, residing in any State, District, Territory or Country, by Charter to constitute them, and those whom they may admit, pursuant to the laws of the Order, into a society of the Order for the political division in which they reside and give to such society a name, and fix a time and place for the first meeting.

Art. X. Section 3. Any society of the Order may organize chapters of its members to consist of not less than nine associates.

Officers.

THE GENERAL COURT.

Art. VII. Section 1. The General Court shall consist of the Founders of the Order, also all actual and all past Governors - General, Deputy Governors-General, Chaplains - General, Secretaries - General, Treasurers-General, Attorneys-General, Registrars-General and Historians-General of the General Court; also all actual Councilors-General during their respective terms of office; also all actual Governors, Deputy Governors, Chaplains, Secretaries, Treasurers, States Attorneys, Registrars and Historians of the several societies of the Order during their respective terms of office, provided, however, that no person shall be a member of the General Court unless he shall be at the time a member in good standing in one of the societies of the Order.

Section 2. The Officers of the General Court shall be a Governor-General, a Deputy Governor-General, a Chaplain-General, a Secretary-General, a Treasurer-General, an Attorney-General, a Registrar-General, and a Historian-General each to hold office for one year, and until his successor is elected and installed, and nine Councilors-General, and each Councilor-General shall hold office for three years.

Section 3. The officers of each society of the Order shall be a Governor, a Deputy-Governor, a Chaplain, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a States Attorney, a Registrar, an Historian, each to hold office for one year and until his successor is elected and installed, and nine Councilors, and each Councilor shall hold office

for three years, and until his successor has been elected and installed, provided, however, that the society shall divide the Councilors first chosen into three classes, one class to serve one year, one two years, and one three years, and until their successors are elected and installed.

The Registrar shall have custody of all applications for membership and shall issue the same as required and provided by the Council. He shall receive the duplicate applications for membership, and examine, approve or disapprove thereof, and certify them in order and report thereon, either to the society or to its Council, or to a committee of the society, or otherwise, as by by-law the society may have required. Before and after such report he may require of the applicant for membership correction of his papers or further proofs.

Membership.

Art. IV. Section 3. Any man of the age of twenty-one years, of good moral character and reputation, and a citizen of the United States, is eligible to membership in the Order, who is lineally descended in the male line of either parent from an ancestor who settled in any of the Colonies, now included in the United States of America, from the settlement of Jamestown, May 13th, 1607, to May 13th, 1657, inclusive, and whose intermediate ancestors at the call of the Colonists, adhered as patriots to their cause through the Revolutionary War that followed, and which ended with the independence of the Colonies.

Section 5. No person shall be admitted an Associate of the Order, without previous investigation into, and ascertainment of his qualifications for membership, and each society may by by-law provide for the manner of such investigation and ascertainment, and of the mode of election of the members of such society.

By-Laws. Section 9. (*a*) Every applicant for membership, must apply in writing and *in duplicate*. His application must state his age, residence, occupation, place of business, and his post office address, and such other matters and things and information as the Council-General shall direct, and *must be recommended by two associates*, and the application must be presented to the *Registrar of a society of the Order*, and shall be accompanied by such historical information concerning his Colonial Ancestor and those in the line of descent to himself, as the society shall request, and the application shall be examined,

as the By-laws of the particular society shall require, to ascertain the qualifications of the applicant, and when ascertained, shall be reported, approved or disapproved, either to the society or to its Council, or to one of them, for election, as the By-laws of such society shall provide. (*b*) Such election must be by ballot, and one negative ballot in every five cast, or five negative ballots in all shall reject the applicant, and he cannot again apply for membership within one year thereafter, nor to any other society than that in which rejected, without its consent.

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*Blank forms for applications for membership may be procured from the Registrar of any State Society or from the Registrar-General directly or through any member of the Order. Application should be made in the State where applicant resides, if there be a Society there, otherwise to any State Society.

Fees and Dues.

By-Laws. Section 12. The initiation fee shall be five dollars, and the annual dues to be paid by all but life and honorary associates, shall be five dollars, to be paid on notice of election to membership, and thereafter shall be due and payable on the 19th day of April in each year, provided that the dues paid by an associate upon his election to membership after January 1st, and before April 19th, in any year, shall be in full of annual dues to April 19th of the year following,

Art. IX. Section 2. Any Associate may commute his annual dues by paying at any time a sum equal to ten years' annual dues, and shall become a life member. All life members are exempt from payment of dues.

Art. IV. Section 7. Payment of the initiation fee and one year's dues and signing the Constitution, either in person or by proxy, all within three months after notice of election to membership, shall be necessary to consummate such membership, and omission so to do, shall, *ipso facto*, make void the election of the member.

Section 8. An Associate of one society of the Order may be transferred to another society of the Order upon his written request, accompanied by a letter of recommendation and dimission from the society from which transferred, and under such regulations as the society to which he seeks transfer may prescribe.

Insignia, Rosette, Standard, etc.

Insignia. An eight-pointed rayed star of gold, on the obverse charged with the cross of St. George in red enamel, bearing within a wreath of oak and laurel, the ideal heads of a Puritan soldier and a Revolutionary soldier; and on the reverse charged with a thirteen-pointed star of blue enamel, bearing in the central medallion the arms of the United States, surrounded by the motto: "Steadfast for God and Country."

Ribbon. A central stripe of black, having in order on one side a narrow white and a narrow blue stripe, and on the other side, in order, a narrow white and a narrow red stripe.

Informal Badge. Rosette, edge the colors of the Order, with a center of white, charged with the red cross of St. George.

Flag. The Flag of the Country.

Standard. A white field charged with the cross of St. George, and bearing in the upper left-hand corner, upon a blue canton, thirteen stars.

Seal. In the center of a medallion, a shield, charged in chief with a ship of the old style, and in base with a Continental soldier surrounded by thirteen stars; above the shield, the dates 1607-1657, and below it the date 1776; the whole surrounded by the title of the Order, with the date 1896.

In consonance with the purpose of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America to further in every way historical and genealogical research, the Council-General contemplates making suitable arrangements with the best professional genealogists in the various localities of the early settlements, so that their assistance may be procured by our members, and those seeking membership, at a moderate cost, and the greatest possible light thrown upon the subject of their investigations.

Further information as to this feature may be had by addressing the Registrar-General, or the Registrar of a State Society.

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